

Longview Farm Greenhouses  
Longview Road  
Lees Summit  
Jackson County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1222-25

HABS  
MO  
48-LESUM  
1/25 —

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

## LONGVIEW FARM GREENHOUSES

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Location: Part of Longview Farm Greenhouse Complex, Longview Road, 3 miles west of Lees Summit Road, Lees Summit, Jackson County, Missouri. USGS Lees Summit Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 15.373880.4306840.

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Present Owner: Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army.

Present Use: None. Scheduled to be maintained as part of Longview Dam and Reservoir Project.

Significance: Although not originally intended to be profit-making, the greenhouses became one of the more profitable activities of Longview Farm. In 1914, two greenhouses were built to supply flowers and shrubbery for Longview and Long's townhouse in Kansas City. The greenhouses sold flowers to visitors and soon began supplying them to a wholesaler in Kansas City. More greenhouses were added as business thrived. The greenhouses grew commercial varieties of flowers such as roses, carnations, gardenias, and camellias.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1914--2 greenhouses  
1916--2 greenhouses  
1919--1 greenhouse  
1940--1 greenhouse
2. Architect: First four--Lord and Burnham Co, Des Plaines, Ill. Fifth--unknown (Wayne Vineyard believes it was American Moninger, although firm of this name has not been located). Sixth--National Greenhouse Company.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See Longview Farm data sheet (MO-1222).
4. Original plan and construction: Architect's plans in the University of Missouri at Kansas City Library. The greenhouses were heated by steam from turbines located in the powerhouse which adjoins the greenhouse. Adjoining the powerhouse is a garage with apartments, and other structures in the greenhouse complex include a storage shed and the greenhouse manager's house. The fifth and sixth greenhouses, much larger than the others, were built specifically for roses and carnations, and a February 17, 1952, Kansas City Star article mentioned "the happiness rose variety being stepped up to 10,000 bushes this season."

5. Alterations and Additions: The original two greenhouses, initially with divided spaces for specific flowers (the first had five sections and the second had three), have each been opened up into one large space. The second two greenhouses were constructed in the same fashion and later opened also.

Major alterations occurred in the 1960s: A quonset greenhouse was added in 1966 at the southeast end of the greenhouses. Wall fans were installed at the east end of each greenhouse, and operable windows were installed in the lower west ends of each house. Grape trellises along the entire west end of the greenhouses were added. On the east side of the four remaining greenhouses, the three outdoor spaces between the houses received (ca. 1968) temporary enclosures providing a quick greenhouse expansion area.

The fifth and sixth greenhouses were destroyed by a hailstorm in the early 1970s and were not replaced.

For background information, see Longview Farm History (MO-1222).

B. Sources of Information:

See Longview Farm data sheet (MO-1222).

Prepared by Kathryn A. Burns  
Historian  
HABS  
Summer 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Of the six greenhouses that were eventually built, only the four smaller ones remain. Rectangular in plan, they measure approximately 200' x 35', and are each one open space. They have a concrete base, up to about 3' above the floor, with glass walls and roof. Sections of the walls and gable roof can be opened or closed depending on the ventilation necessary. The southern slopes of the roofs are fiberglass while the northern slopes are clear glass. The floors are dirt with concrete walkways and stairs. There are raised wooden, or wooden and fiberglass, planting beds. The greenhouses are connected by 11'-4" x 17' enclosed walkways, constructed of the same materials as the greenhouses.

There is a quonset style greenhouse on the southeast side of the first greenhouse. Smaller greenhouses made of nothing more than chicken wire on wood posts and visqueen were built on the northeast side in the spaces between the large greenhouses. Grape arbors made of pipe and wire mesh have been placed along the southwest wall of each large greenhouse, blocking the doors on that wall.

Prepared by: Bethanie Grashof  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Summer, 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Longview Farm Survey was undertaken in 1978 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Kansas City District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the construction of the Longview Dam and Reservoir. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the documentation was prepared on site by Project Supervisor Bethanie Grashof (HABS Office); Historian Kathryn A. Burns (George Washington University); Foreman Darl Rastorfer (University of Pennsylvania); and student architects Kimberly I. Merkel (University of Virginia), Leonida Cubellis (Syracuse University), Jeffrey M. Laufer (Temple University), Barney H. Silver (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee), and Douglas R. Taylor (Auburn University). Work on the drawings was continued in the HABS office by Ms. Grashof and Peter Darlow (McGill University), and completed by Mr. Taylor in 1979. The data was edited in the HABS office in 1979 by Alison K. Hoagland (George Washington University).